

Land Use Study 2 (Land Management)

Objectives of the Study

To determine what entities manage the lands adjacent to and near the project and what are the management objectives of the entities for those lands. The study will ultimately determine how the management of those lands influences the project and vice versa.

Relationship to Relicensing/Need for Study

It is currently difficult to determine with accuracy, who manages lands near the project and what the management directives/objectives are for those lands. It is also important to know how effectively the lands are being managed and factors such as funding and staffing that influence management. It is important to have this kind of knowledge so that the lands (and other resources) of the project can be managed to reflect what is occurring on nearby lands and vice versa.

Study Area

The land management study will examine the management of lands within the Oroville FERC project boundary, contiguous properties and other lands within 1/4 mile of the project boundaries.

Methodology and Analysis

The Land Management Study will consist of two phases: 1) an assessment of the entities that currently have land management responsibilities for lands in and near the project boundary along with a description of the plans that are used to manage those lands and, 2) an evaluation of land management direction along with an opportunities and constraints analysis.

Phase 1: Existing Land Management Patterns

Phase 1 will consist of three tasks: 1) a literature and data review, which will be supplemented with personal interviews, and, 2) mapping that will depict the current land use designations for lands in and adjacent to the project.

Task 1: Literature and Data Review Along with Interviews with the Staff of Land Management Entities

Lands within and adjacent to the project will be evaluated and the land uses for those lands described. There will be a review of existing land use maps associated with comprehensive and management plans to determine how they

influence land use. Entities that manage land near the project will be identified and staff will be contacted for additional information.

Personnel from appropriate jurisdictions and agencies will be contacted to determine the currency of plans, become aware of any anticipated changes to those plans, and to anticipate new plans or policies. Planned or potential planning or development activities that could influence the use of lands at and near the project will also be identified during this task. In addition, land managers will be asked to identify the current challenges (e.g. budget, staffing, coordination) faced by land managers that may influence existing and/or potential land uses at the project.

Task 2: Mapping

New maps for this task will be developed to display land ownership and management patterns in and near the project. GIS layers from sources such as Butte County, the Forest Service, and the BLM will be obtained and added to the land management database as will information from paper maps. This information will allow us to develop comprehensive maps of the entire project area that display what lands the various entities that manage within and adjacent to the project and what the management classifications for those lands. After the preliminary maps have been completed, management agencies and other data sources and other appropriate work groups will review the maps to ensure accuracy and currency.

Phase 2: Land Management Directions and Trends, Issues and Opportunities and Constraints.

Phase 2 will consist of three tasks: 1) and summary of land management consistency and direction, 2) a discussion of the land management issues developed by the work group, and 3) an opportunities and constraints analysis relative to land management.

Task 1: Land Management Consistency and Direction

This task will involve summarize how the various land management entities that manage lands in and adjacent to the project manage their lands and discuss how consistent those management directions are.

Task 2: Land Management Issues Identified by the Work Group

This task will address the issues identified by the work group related to land management.

Task 3: Opportunities and Constraints Analysis

After identifying how lands in and adjacent to the project are managed and current or potential land management conflicts, an opportunity and constraints analysis can be conducted. The analysis will look for opportunities to resolve land management conflicts, while identifying constraints.

Task 4: Consistency with Wetland, Floodplain and Other Natural Resource Protection Management Direction and Regulations.

This task is specifically required by FERC under 18CFR 4.51 [6][iii] as part of the relicensing process. Information regarding wetlands, floodplains and other environmentally sensitive areas can come from a variety of sources, but the most reliable source will be the terrestrial portion of the Environmental Work Group. Thus, this task will require extensive coordination with the Environmental Work Group. We will also review federal, state and local regulations related to wetland and floodplain protection and will use resources such as the National Wetland Inventory maps and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of the effort to identify wetlands and floodplains.

Results/Products

The products of the land management study will be a land management resource report and land management maps. The resource report will summarize and characterize the current status of land management in the project area. The resource report will also evaluate the consistency of likely or anticipated actions with the relevant comprehensive or management plans. The maps will be based on GIS data layers that will display land ownership, land management responsibility and land use designations or classifications.

Coordination With Other Resource Areas/Studies

Prior to starting the Land Use Study 2, we will meet with other work groups to determine where and when relevant data can be gathered and shared with other groups. Land Study 2 will likely be coordinated with the Engineering and Operations, Environmental, Cultural Resources and Recreation and Socioeconomic Work Groups. Much of data collection that will be done for this study will be done at the same time, and in conjunction with, the other lands related studies (land use and comprehensive plan consistency

Study Schedule

Phase 1 of this study is tentatively scheduled to be started during the late winter of 2002 and completed by early summer of 2002. Phase 2 is tentatively scheduled to begin in the summer of 2002 and completed by late fall, or early winter of 2002.

Issues, Concerns, Comments Tracking and/or Compliance Requirements

Issue Statement LM1- what are the funding and staffing needs to adequately address land management for project lands?

Issue Statement LM4 – what are appropriate law enforcement activities, security and penalties for project lands?

Issues Addressed:

LM E1 – evaluate facility security

LM E4 and E5 – funds available for security

LM 15 – warning system for water releases